



University of Minnesota wrestling Coach J Robinson tours Kuwait to say thank you to 'Red Bull' soldiers

By Spc Trisha Betz

Developing his answers to the tests of life, Coach J Robinson wanted to share them with soldiers of 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division as a way to say thank you to 'Red Bull' soldiers who are currently deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn.

In the last ten years, his wife divorced him, he lost his job along with a very large sum of money in the stock market and to top it all off this man had 57 surgeries conducted on his body just so he can function like you or I.

With all the difficulties he has faced you would never think that he would have accomplished the things he has in life to include: 1972 Olympian, national wrestling Hall of Fame inductee, Captain in the U.S. Army, Vietnam Veteran, honor graduate in Army Ranger School, an Instructor at U.S. Military Academy, West Point, four time National Freestyle and Greco Wrestling Champion, two time National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) National Coach of the Year, four time Assistant Olympic Wrestling Team Coach, three time NCAA Division I Champion, six time Big Ten Champion, six time Big Ten Coach of the Year and he is currently in his 25th season of coaching wrestling at the University of Minnesota.

"Coming here I just wanted to say thank you to the troops and let them know that people do care about them and the job they're doing here," said Robinson, "It's little to ask for what

they do for us."

Coach Robinson arrived in Kuwait Sept. 27th for an eight-day tour. While in Kuwait he visited all major bases and spoke with over 800 troops.

"It's really great to know that we have support back in Minnesota and anybody willing to come here is absolutely amazing," said Spc. Tracy L. White, an Emergency Operation Center (EOC) assistant for the 134th BSB currently sustaining the Life Support Area (LSA).

White added, to see Coach Robinson, a Minnesotan, coming here to speak and motivate us as we continue in our endeavors ... speaks miles to his character.

Though life was still a far cry from being easy for him, he stayed focused on his goals and the missions the Army presented him as a Commissioned Officer.

"There are a lot of things I learned as a young man dealing in the Army that was transferred over into other areas of my life," commented Robinson.

Robinson's time in the Army helped him clearly define the difference between a goal and a mission. Knowing this, Robinson was more than prepared to speak with his first hand knowledge to Minnesota troops.

"The difference between a goal and mission is you have goals and a lot of



University of Minnesota wrestling coach J Robinson leads a combatives course at Camp Patriot, Kuwait Oct. 3, 2011. Coach Robinson toured Kuwait for eight days to say thank you to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division 'Red Bulls'.

people don't reach their goals, but as a Soldier you're given a mission and you have no choice but to get it done," said Robinson.

All soldiers have missions during the deployment and many will set personal goals. Coach helped some by giving them the skills to reach their goals during the deployment.

"I've learned from Coach Robinson that it's not always knowledge that will get you far in life-it's following through and doing the hard work that needs to be done," said White.

"You've been given this day to use, as you will; it's important what you do with it because you're exchanging one day of your life for it," mentioned Robinson as he was leaving LSA, "The definition of concretion is where ever you are be there."

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CAPTION: University of Minnesota wrestling coach J Robinson leads a combatives course at Camp Patriot, Kuwait Oct. 3, 2011 for the soldiers of 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division 'Red Bulls'.

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THE RED BULL EXPRESS

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2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry
1st Battalion, 180th Cavalry
1st Battalion, 160th Field Artillery

The Red Bull Justice is a publication by the 1/34 HBCT Legal Section. This newsletter contains a summary of Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) actions resolved during the reporting period. This publication does not contain matters resolved by administrative action, such as administrative letters of reprimand and administrative separations.

Nonjudicial Punishments

Eight Soldiers were charged and found guilty of misconduct and punished under Article 15 of the UCMJ between 1 June and 1 October 2011. Of the eight, seven were Field Grade Article, and one was a Company Grade Article 15.

A Staff Sergeant from 1-125 FA was found guilty at a Field Grade Article 15's hearing for failure to obey a lawful order. The Soldier possessed and used synthetic cannabis. The Soldier was sentenced to a reduction to Sergeant (E5).

A Staff Sergeant from 1-194 CAB was found guilty at a Field Grade Article 15 hearing for wrongfully wearing badges and tabs. The Soldier wore a Ranger Tab and Pathfinder Badge without attending the appropriate school. The Soldier was sentenced to reduction to Sergeant (E5); forfeiture of one half of one month's pay for two months, \$2800.50 total forfeiture (suspended); and a written letter of reprimand.

A Sergeant from 44th CBRN Company was found guilty at a Field Grade Article 15 hearing for failure to obey a lawful order. The Soldier possessed and used synthetic cannabis. The Soldier was sentenced to reduction to Specialist (E4); forfeiture of \$1,115.40; 45 days extra duty and 45 days restriction specified locations for 45 days, which was suspended.

A Private from 44th CBRN Company was found guilty at a Field Grade Article 15 hearing for failure to obey a lawful order. The Soldier possessed and used synthetic cannabis. The Soldier was sentenced to reduction to Private (E1); forfeiture of \$733.80 for two (2) months, \$1,467.76 total forfeiture; 45 days extra duty and 45 days restriction to specified locations, which was suspended.

A Sergeant from 1-94 CAV was found guilty at a Company Grade Article 15 hearing for actions prejudicial to good order and discipline for speaking disrespectfully of another NCO in front of junior enlisted Soldiers. The Soldier was sentenced to forfeiture of \$653.45; and a written reprimand.

A Specialist 1-125 FA was found guilty at a Field Grade Article 15 hearing for using marijuana while on pass from MOB station. The Soldier was sentenced to reduction to Private First Class (E3); forfeiture of \$1,007.10; and 30 days extra duty.

A Specialist 1-125 FA was found guilty at a Field Grade Article 15 hearing for using cocaine while on pass from MOB station. The Soldier was sentenced to reduction to Private First Class (E3); forfeiture of \$1067.70; and 45 days extra duty.

A Staff Sergeant from 2-135 IN was found guilty at a Field Grade Article 15 hearing for willfully disobeying a superior NCO, disrespect to a superior NCO and dereliction of duty. The Soldier was sentenced to reduction to Sergeant (E5), which was suspended; forfeiture of \$500.00 per month for two (2) months, of which \$250.00 per month was suspended, total active forfeiture \$500.00; 14 days extra duty; and an oral reprimand.

A Day at Khabari Crossing

Spc. Matthew Dale and 1st Lt. Jeremy Mollinger

Soldiers of the West St. Paul, Minn. based Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment have finished a third of their yearlong deployment in Kuwait.

Alpha Company soldiers play a vital role in the smooth transport of men and material between Iraq and Kuwait by conducting security at Khabari Crossing in addition to vehicle recovery. This task is pivotal in facilitating the logistical operations in support of Operation New Dawn.

Spc. Arnet of Maple Grove, Minn. was excited about driving into Iraq. "The rush from the first time going in was exciting." These sentiments are common for the infantrymen of Alpha Company, many of whom are excited at the prospect of doing what they were trained to do.

Others are thankful for the peace and quiet they've has encountered so far. Though the remainder of the deployment is uncertain, the soldiers of Alpha Company are prepared to face any challenge that presents itself to them.

On September 10th, Alpha Company's Third Platoon undertook a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) recovery mission to retrieve a downed Caiman. Tasked with this mission at the tail end of their shift, they performed admirably despite the grueling hours.

This mission reflects the increased activity that the company has faced after the end of Ramadan. A dramatic surge in convoys passing through Khabari Crossing means that there will continue to be more QRF missions such as this one, but the men are up to the task.

Four hours after they began their mission, Staff Sgt. Jacob Nies of Mapleton, Minn. safely returned with his security team after recovering a damaged Caiman to Khabari Crossing for further transport and repair.

After mission completion 1st Lt. Jeremy Mollinger of Lino Lakes, Minn. lead his men through an after-action review. These reviews are done right after training or missions

while the memories are still fresh so good ideas aren't forgotten.

Though this was 3rd platoon's first expedition into Iraq, it is also the company's longest recovery mission in terms of distance and time. Both non-commissioned officers and lower enlisted participated enthusiastically in the discussion, highlighting both areas to improve upon for the next mission and strengths to be sustained.

The soldiers made sure they'd re-hydrated after working for over sixteen hours straight. Despite the long hours, the soldiers of Alpha Company remain diligent, disciplined, and professional.

"Though this mission isn't glorious in terms of what others before us have done," Mollinger said. "All the soldiers in this company know how important it is with the drawdown and we're proud to do it. We do the best we can for as long as we have to – these men have demonstrated that today."

"The QRF missions are kind of long, but at least you get the thrill that something could happen." Spc. Christopher Korte of Minneapolis, Minn. adds, describing his eagerness to close with and destroy the enemy. "Thrill is what I look for."

Though they are back at base, the duty day is not yet over. The men pour over every section of their assigned vehicle to ensure their vehicles are ready for the next mission.

Issues with vehicles and equipment are a common threat in the inhospitable desert environment so they have to check their vehicles constantly.

"I've noticed that the convoys have gotten bigger," Spc Zachary Weineke of 1st Platoon agrees. "But we have been successful so far in handling the increased load".

With a smile on his face, Spc. Weineke of Blaine, Minn. returns to his vehicle with his fellow Soldiers. The sun beats down, the heat continues to radiate, and the soldiers of Alpha Company, 2-135 Infantry stay positive and stand ready to face another day.



The downed Caiman successfully returned to K-XING for further transport and repair by soldiers in the West St. Paul, Minn. based Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry. Alpha Company soldiers also ensure the smooth and effective transport of men and material both into and increasingly out of Iraq.

END GAME

By Spc Tucker Smith

The soldiers of the 1-180th cavalry have been tasked with closing an important chapter in American history in the Middle East. As Operation New Dawn draws quietly to a successful close an unprecedented amount of gear and equipment is left for the remaining soldiers to recover and transport out of the country. Coalition bases that once housed hundreds of thousands of troops and other personnel have now been effectively reduced to ghost towns as coalition forces begin the measured withdrawal of forces in the country. This leaves a lot of work to be done by a lot less people; this is where the troops of the 1-180th CAV will look to pick up operations in the coming months.

While not initially trained in the Iraqi environment, the 1-180th has been working overtime to prepare itself to adjust to the new operational climate. The unit looks to draw on its extensive experience as a mounted unit to help contribute to the effort of moving the proverbial mountain of equipment that must be moved out of the country by year's end. In most ways this new task is perfectly suited for a unit of the same composition as the 1-180th Cav; one might say that the unit is going back to the basics, as it were. Said Spc James Nettleton (22, Edmund, OK) "While this isn't the exact mission that we prepared for, or even what most of us had hoped to do this time last year, it's still nice to be able to say we were able to contribute in such a crucial effort."

The soldiers of the 1-180th are working round the clock to mitigate the possible dangers associated with an operation of such astronomical proportions. Not only must they guard against possible enemy intervention, but also the non-combat risks that have taken so many lives in the past decade. Soldiers that learned mounted operations in the relatively nimble 1151 HMMWVs must now become comfortable with the comparatively gigantic MRAP series of vehicles that are presently being used in most theaters of operation. This task, amongst all others, is fully within the abilities and expertise of the soldiers and leadership of the 1-180th Cav who look to add yet another chapter of success to their already storied lineage.



Brothers in Arms

2nd Lt Paul Modeen, Bravo Troop, 1-94 CAV

As soldiers, we often refer to ourselves as brothers in arms. The sacrifices shared, the times spent together create a bond that can never be rivaled. In times of war and in times of peace, soldiers come together from all corners of our great state and work together to meet their communities' call to service.

Two soldiers from Bravo Troop, 1-94 CAV share an even more unique bond, they actually are brothers. Specialist Nathan Heitala and Private First Class Andrew Eskola have served in the same unit based out of Pine City, Minnesota for the past year and have continued to serve overseas in support of Operation New Dawn.



grandfathers that honorably served in the Air force, Navy and the Marine Corps in previous wars.

When asked about the pros and cons of having a family member serve side by side, both brothers will admit that it's nice to always have someone to count on, someone to reflect about home life with. The hardest part for them is watching one or the other leave on mission. With so many unknowns, they have to remain extra strong and support each other. "When he goes on mission, even though he

"When he goes on mission, even though he is with a great team, I still worry about him and pray he is safe"
Pfc. Eskola explained.

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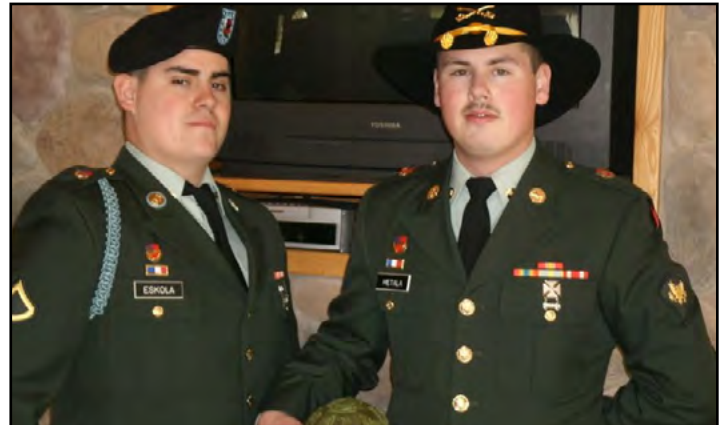
With two brothers serving in the same unit, the sacrifice made by their

family back home is doubled. They are grateful for how strong and supportive their mother has been since choosing to join the United States Army. They wanted to pass a message home to their family: "Hi Mom, Dad, John, and all my friends, see you soon!"

As the deployment continues they look to the future with great optimism. PFC Eskola and SPC Heitala look forward to serving together in the National Guard back home and to someday passing on this tradition of service to their children.

Currently they are actively participating in the 1-94th CAV Squadron's long haul convoy security escort mission, based out of Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Both Soldiers come from an infantry background and have been utilizing their skills as gunners on top of the MRAP Caiman platform since August.

Military service is nothing new to these brothers' lives. A family tradition to them, their service in the United States Army completes a circle of service from their fathers and



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Patched Into Tradition, Crazyhorse Receives Right Arm Red Bull

By Spc. Zachary K. Mangas

It's not every day a Company serving overseas in a combat zone has the chance to receive their combat patches on top of one of the oldest buildings known to man, but for a group of Minnesota National Guard Soldiers this possibility became a reality.

Charlie Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor (Co C, 1-194 CAB), based out of Sauk Centre, Minn., was deployed to Camp Virginia, Kuwait in the middle of July to assist in Operation New Dawn – the drawdown of American forces from Iraq. Their year-long mission has them on the road for the majority of time. It's called convoy escort security – providing protection to large semi-size trucks hauling supplies in and out of Iraq.

Since they arrived overseas the Company has accomplished a great deal. As of October 1, the Company has traveled more than 100,000 miles in Iraq and has escorted over 4,000 trucks safely through the desert land. As a result of being deployed to an area of operation where there is combat action, Charlie Company was awarded the combat patch.

On September 11, a group of Soldiers from Charlie Company reached the point of one of their missions in the south eastern area of Iraq when they were told they would be receiving the Red Bull combat patch to wear on their right shoulder.

"It was a normal mission for us,"



said Spc. Luke A. Peterson, an armor crewman from Duluth, MN. "We had been on the road escorting trucks for close to nine hours and were ready to take showers and get some sleep when word came down that our Sergeant Major worked it out with the Iraqi police to let us receive our patches on top of the Ziggurat."

The Ziggurat of Ur dates back thousands of years. It was constructed in a city called Ur, which was located in the present-day Dhi Qar Province of Iraq. As a temple with other buildings linked to the dwelling place, the step-like pyramids were built in honor of a moon god named Nanna. Only priests were allowed inside to offer sacrifices to this god and one priest was always stationed inside to act as a guard. The base of the ziggurat served as an area of resting courters with a kitchen.

It is said the total length of the structure measured 210 feet and 150 feet in width. The top of the ziggurat where a temple would have been never survived over the years but it is estimated to have stood around 100 feet in height. The Ziggurat was the heart of the city. Built out of mud, reed and oven baked bricks – archeologists say it was surrounded by other buildings which are now long gone - withered away by time.

According to the Bible, Abraham, one of the earliest documented human beings– lived in this area where the ziggurat is located. Christianity believes this would be the origin of human life.

"It's pretty surreal to think of it this way – something I'll remember for the rest of my life," said Andrew L. Schmaltz, an infantryman from Big Lake, Minn. "Most guys my age are in college or working back home. Here I am

at the birthplace of man receiving my combat patch."

When the Soldiers reached the top of the steps they could see the far distant span of open desert. These individuals who hailed from all corners of Minnesota had found themselves in a place they never thought they would be – the earliest standing grounds of all civilization. After a period of exploring the structure it was time to fulfill the objective of the mission.

Standing in formation at the top while others manned the gun trucks at the bottom, Sgt. Maj. Judson Meyer placed the red bull insignia on the right shoulder of the awe struck Soldiers.

The Red Bull insignia is assigned to the 34th Infantry Division, which Charlie Company is a part of. The design was created by a Soldier in 1917 that depicted the training grounds of Camp Cody, New Mexico with a red steer over a black Mexican water jug called an "olla." The Red Bulls received their nickname in World War II after German Troops started calling them "Red Devils" or "Red Bulls."

"It was one of those things that I wouldn't change for the world," said Spc. Peterson. "Twenty years down the line when I'm talking to my kids and grand kids I can tell them where I was on the 10th anniversary of 9/11 – in Iraq, helping to finish this war."

The events of 9/11 affected all of America and the rest of the world. It was an awakening for thousands of young men and women everywhere. For many, it was a call to serve – including those of Charlie Company.

"September 11, 2001. It's why I'm here," said Spc. Ryan D.

Steinhoffer, an armor crewman from Sedan, Minn. "I never thought something like that could happen to our country, but it did. The loss of life that day is without question horrible. Since then, so many have sacrificed to make sure an event of that nature never occurs on U.S. soil again. We're going to honor them by finishing the job here in Iraq."

Over half of Charlie Company has been deployed to a combat zone previously. In 2005, Co C was sent overseas to fight during Operation Iraqi Freedom. They spent 16 months in-country - one of the longest deployed units in Iraq since the war began.

Sgt. Aaron J. McGowan, a signal support systems specialist from Lakeville, Minn., has taken part in both deployments and is happy to see his fellow brothers and sisters receive the significant insignia.

"It's great to see my guys who have never deployed before receive their combat patch after spending so much time training and running missions," said Sgt. McGowan. "People recognize the 1st Brigade Combat Team patch of the 34th Infantry Division throughout the whole theatre of operations because of what we accomplished during Operation Iraqi Freedom and now Operation New Dawn. It's something I'll always carry on my right shoulder for the rest of my military career. I'm happy to see

more Soldiers patched into the tradition."

Back at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, the 194th Armor Battalion, including Charlie Company, stood in formation while Lt. Col. Brian Melton and Command Sgt. Maj. John Lepowsky approached each Company to grant them their combat patches. With the flag of the red, white and blue and the Minnesota State flag flying overhead, the Battalion spent their ceremony honoring and remembering those who lost their lives ten years ago in the attacks and in the war on terror.

"We will never forget the lives lost that September morning ten years ago," said Capt. John M. Hobot, Commander of Crazyhorse. "We are going to finish the job we started here last deployment during the troop surge and leave proud with what we have accomplished in Iraq. Today is a day to reflect on what we really have in the United States, a society that accepts political differences and diversity among it's people which is protected by the blanket of freedom and democracy. I wish the same for the people of Iraq during this transitional time as they move closer to a democratic free society."



Area Reaction Force

By. 1st Lt Sean Carstensen

Driving down a desert highway in southern Kuwait, sand stretches as far as the eye can see, melting into the horizon. Sparse vegetation dots the landscape as a city fades in the distance. A herd of camels wander by as up-armored humvees rumble along the road. These are typical sights during a mission for the Area Reaction Force (ARF) of the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery (1-125 FA).

The ARF is responsible for the security of southern Kuwait. They have one of the most dynamic missions in the Battalion ranging from route reconnaissance to security escorts. They can be called on at any hour of the day or night and respond within minutes.

Most of the Soldiers are from the Anoka fire support detachment, and a handful of Soldiers are from the St. Peter support company. "The ARF

Soldiers have developed into a cohesive group that has adapted well to a non-standard mission," said 1st Lt. John Perrin, ARF platoon leader, 1st Bn, 125th FA. "I have 100 percent confidence that they are capable of handling any situation that may arise."

On October 1, 2011, the day's mission called for 2nd Squad to make a trip to Al-Jaber Air Base in order to bolster situational awareness, establish a presence in the area, and meet with the U.S. security forces located there. The U.S. Air Force operates at the Kuwaiti-owned air base similar to how the 1-125 FA operates at Kuwait Naval Base (KNB) by sharing the space in a cooperative effort. The U.S. Air Force provides air support for Operation New Dawn from Al-Jaber.

The ARF's area of responsibility



is large, covering several areas of interest, and many of the missions to this point have focused on learning the area. "There are multiple levels of purpose to every movement. We have to learn the locations of named areas of interest (NAIs), city neighborhoods, the roads, and how to effectively navigate in a dense urban area. All this while paying close attention for threats to ourselves and others from vehicles, people, and our surroundings," said 1st Lt. Perrin. As of October 1, the ARF has completed 100 missions.

Hard Work Makes Historical Marker

By. 1st Lt Sean Carstensen

Hard work and a strong commitment to the unit do not go unrecognized in the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery. Spc. Christian Dale Wilson of St. Peter, MN, base support specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Bn, 125th FA, was recognized as one of the 1-125 FA Battalion's best Soldiers on September 6, 2011. Lt. Gen. J. Michael Bednarek, Commander, First Army Division, presented Spc. Wilson with a 3-star coin to commemorate the event. Spc. Wilson was chosen above all other Soldiers in the Battalion for his commitment to duty and outstanding performance.

"It's astounding the number of jobs he completes on a day to day basis. His motor never stops. His work ethic is second to none," said 1st Sgt. James Bentson, Battery 1st Sgt., Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Bn, 125th FA.

Spc. Wilson designed and constructed a monument for the Battalion that was unveiled on October 6, 2011. Spc. Wilson presented the monument to the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Troy Soukup, and the Battalion Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Eustice. Spc. Wilson then described his creation for the Commander, the CSM, and the HHB soldiers. He chose the words "the famous" because the Red Bulls are known throughout the military world for the longest deployments of both World War II and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The word "faithful" is the motto of the 1-125 FA. The red background of Lt. Col. Soukup's nameplate represents the color of the Field Artillery. The black background of Command Sgt. Maj. Eustice's nameplate represents a solid foundation for the battalion.



Soldiers in Kuwait Go “Wild” for Hockey

By Sgt. Lindsay L. Mackie

Although it is difficult to find ice in Kuwait, Minnesota National Guard soldiers carry on a tradition that began almost a year ago by their New England predecessors of the 197th Fires Brigade. On most Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1900 to 2100, soldiers can either watch or participate in games of floor hockey in the Camp Arifjan Zone 6 TAC building.

Sgt. Nikolaus Curley, Military Police, Contracting Officer Representative Technician, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 34th Infantry Division from Shakopee, Minn. is the organizer of floor hockey nights. Sgt. Curley started a FaceBook group called Arifjan Floor Hockey which is primarily used to notify players of the play schedule. Members are also able to post photos and organize their teams for tournaments.

Although floor hockey nights are not a Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) sponsored event, anyone on Camp Arifjan is welcome to attend. Several regular players are civilian contractors and many service members are from units other than the 34th Infantry Division.

The teams are not overly competitive and everyone involved plays for the fun and exercise. The two goal tenders select their teams, and players are able to rotate in and out of the game to get an equal amount of game and rest time.

Minnesota has always been a state that is well known for its love of hockey. The 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion 34th Infantry Division has had a special relationship with the Minnesota Wild NHL team since 2005 when the 1/34 BSTB deployed to Iraq for 16 months. Task Force Wild is the title used by the BSTB and that tradition has been carried on to the units' current deployment as the Camp Command Cell in Zone 6 of Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



Minnesota Soldiers Run Army Ten Miler in Kuwait

By 1st Lt. Aaron Rindahl

Seventeen soldiers from the Brigade Special Troops Battalion and Heavy Brigade Combat Team, Minnesota National Guard were up well before the sun on the morning of October 2nd, 2011 to make the two hour journey from Camp Arifjan to Camp Buehring, Kuwait to run the Army Ten Miler. Camp Buehring is one of at least 18 shadow races conducted around the world of the largest Army Ten Miler held in Washington D.C. on October 9th.

There have been many opportunities for soldiers at Camp Arifjan to run sponsored 5k races, but the Army Ten Miler gave them an opportunity to push their limits. While ten miles is significantly longer than the two miles that is required by the Army Physical Fitness Test, these 17 soldiers from Minnesota wanted to prove that they can go above and beyond the standard!

2nd Lt. Jacob Cavanaugh from Cloquet, MN “enjoyed running with a different group of people.” He also stated that “Camp Buehring provided a great running atmosphere with the number of runners that attended.” Additionally, 2nd Lt. Cavanaugh placed 3rd in the under 29 year old male group with an impressive time of 1 hour and 7 minutes. The run was very challenging with most of the race being on uneven surface mostly of gravel paths. “10 miles is 9 miles too far!” said Sgt. Nikolaus Curley after the race. Despite the long race, there were water points staffed with motivating and creative service members cheering on the runners; one being soldiers dressed up with grass skirts and coconut tops handing out water and O’Doul’s N/A beer. Some showed support for their favorite sports team, while others had a more patriotic theme all ultimately showing support and boosting morale.



Supporting the Draw Down One Scoop at a Time

By Capt Sara Behr

The 134 Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) deployed to Camp Virginia, Kuwait in early summer as part of Operation New Dawn. One of the BSB's missions is to support the Redistribution Property Assistance Team (RPAT) at Camp Virginia in support of the draw down from Iraq. The RPAT is set up to receive equipment at the "RPAT Yard" as it is brought in from Iraq.

Vehicles are one of the most visible items received at the RPAT Yard. Once inspected, cleaned and accounted for, the vehicles are staged in one of the nine motor pools at the RPAT Yard. "We had a few set backs on our plate," said Danny McMillon, the Trans Lead/ Foreman with ITT Corporation for the RPAT site. One of the issues the RPAT Yard faced was the openings connecting the motor pools were filling up with sand due to the constant winds. With the draw down ramping up and activity in the RPAT yard increasing, this was becoming a bigger problem.

The BSB's Sgt 1st Class Miriam Fayas, the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of the Contracting section, answered the call. Relying upon her civilian construction experience, Fayas took it upon herself to assist the RPAT. She spent hours in a Bobcat removing sand to ensure the RPAT had the necessary access to the motor pools. Fayas also assisted in the placement of barriers in the openings to reduce the possibility of the sand filling up the open area in the future.

Maj. Gen. Kenneth S. Dowd, the 1st Theater Sustainment Command Commander, visited Camp Virginia and requested a cut in the berm between motor pools 8 and 9 to allow Soldiers direct access to the yard instead of having to make the long walk around the entry yard to the next yard. The RPAT asked Fayas if she could assist with this and her answer was "No problem." The next day Fayas drove the

McMillon commented, "Sgt. 1st Class Fayas does not stop until the mission is complete. She's like a well-greased machine and keeps going and going..."

Bobcat to the RPAT yard to complete the request. "I went down to see what was going on and SFC Fayas was hard at work operating the Bobcat cutting through the berm," said McMillon. "I was able to get the mission accomplished within days versus months," said Fayas. Currently, the RPAT yard isn't covered by a contract allowing a contractor to do immediate work. Because of this, there is a process to receive funding and approval for the contractor to complete the work and this process sometimes can take a little while.

McMillon commented, "Fayas does not stop until the mission is complete. She's like a well-greased machine and keeps going and going. I have witnessed her leave one area straight to work at another, stop and go back to the office to do some meeting and training, and then she's back in the Bobcat in the RPAT yard taking on another mission that was on our deadline list to get done. Even when the wind picked up and she was covered in sand she wouldn't stop till the mission was complete. She has been a blessing to our mission here at the setup of the RPAT site."





Have a Photo?

Help us tell the story of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division to everyone!

If you have a photo that shows what you and your unit are up to, please send it to Lynette.R.Hoke@us.army.mil

